

## REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-9 and 11-31 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-14, 16-21, 23-25 and 27-31 are cancelled herein.

Therefore, claims 3, 15, 22 and 26 are now pending and under consideration.

Claims 3, 15, 22 and 26 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-14, 16-21, 23-25 and 27-31 are rejected.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

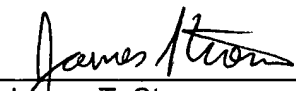
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 23 Nov 2004

By:   
James T. Strom  
Registration No. 48,702

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501